[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government are unable to furnish an answer as the period for which the information is required has not been specified.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to furnish an answer if the question relates to the year 1098?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes; but not immediately, because the necessary information has to be called for.

Opium Monopoly.

155. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to give a statement showing:

(*a*) the amount of money spent by the Government for the purchase of opium from Madras;

(*b*) the price of opium and the duty paid thereon;

(*c*) the duty levied in Travancore; and

(*d*) the duty derived by the Government from this transaction?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The amount depends upon the price fixed by the Madras Government for opium from time to time.

(*b*) This Government now gets opium from Madras at Bh. Rs. 70 per seer, which is made up of Rs. 23 ,being the cost price, and Rs. 47, being the duty charged by the Madras Government.

(*c*) and (*d*) No duty is levied on opium in Travancore. But opium is sold to the licensed shopkeepers at Rs. 2 per seer more than the price paid to the British Government. The excess of Rs. 2 covers transport and other incidental charges.

Expenditure on British Empire Exhibition.

156. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to state what sum has hitherto been spent for the British Empire Exhibition by the Travancore Government and how many rupees more the Government intend to spend on that behalf?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): A sum of Rs. 41,739 has been spent on account of the British Empire Exhibition till the end of Dhanu, 1099. Rs. 43,181 more will be required during this year.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether the Government contemplate spending any more money next year on this account?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No definite answer can be given now.

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